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# LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1999 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 864 (1993) CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have pleasure in forwarding the attached interim report of the Expert Panel established by the Security Council in resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999, requested by the Council in that resolution and subsequent related decisions.

(Signed) Robert R. FOWLER
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 864 (1993)
concerning the situation in Angola

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Annex

Interim report of the Expert Panel established by the Security Council in resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999 and subsequent related decisions, by which the Council requested that an interim report be provided by 30 September 1999 by the Expert Panel established to collect information, investigate reports and make recommendations relative to the violation of Security Council sanctions against the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA).

2. The Expert Panel met for the first time at United Nation Headquarters, on 26 and 27 August 1999. During this meeting, the Panel received extensive briefings from the United Nations Secretariat and tackled a number of important administrative matters related to the establishment and operation of the Panel. The Panel decided that its first priority should be the formulation of a plan of work, and it agreed to convene again in September in order to finalize and approve a plan of work.

3. The Panel held its second full meeting at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on 24 and 25 September 1999. At this meeting, the Panel surveyed the information that was currently available to its members with respect to matters within the Panel's mandate, and agreed on a plan of work. The Panel also considered how best to prioritize its work within the five categories established by the Council, namely, diamonds, finances, petroleum products, representation and travel, and weapons. The Panel has decided that in order to facilitate the sharing of information and expertise, the two original panels (one dealing with arms, and the other with UNITA resources) would as a practical matter function as one panel.

4. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the Panel and bolster its information-gathering capacity, the Panel has decided to establish a base for itself in southern Africa. Arrangements for the establishment of such an office are now being finalized, and it is intended that this office should be made operational before the end of October 1999. The Panel is also establishing an information database and a Web site, and is considering a variety of other information tools.

5. With a view towards helping to lay a solid foundation for the subsequent work of the Panel, the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur have undertaken preliminary visits to Washington, D.C., and Moscow (two of the three Troika capitals), and to the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity at Addis Ababa. An early visit to Lisbon, the third Troika capital, is also planned. It is anticipated that the full panel will convene again in mid-October at Luanda, once suitable dates can be agreed upon with the Government of Angola. This visit will be followed by working visits to the headquarters of the Southern African Development Community at Gabarone, and to a number of countries in the subregion. Subsequent visits will also encompass countries in Central and West Africa, and countries in Eastern and Western Europe.

At the urging of the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee, and in view of the very serious situation that continues to prevail in Angola, as well as the urgency of the matters entrusted to it, the Panel decided that conclusions and recommendations relative to particular categories may be released as soon as they have been formulated, rather than being held until the Panel's final report is completed.

In accordance with the request by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola to be kept regularly informed of the progress of the Panel's work, it has been agreed that the Committee will be briefed by the Panel whenever important developments might warrant such a briefing and, in any event, at least once a month.

Anders MOLLANDER
Chairman, Panel of Experts

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